

# Colorado Noise Program

Bob Mero, CDOT

2005 ADC40 Summer Meeting

Seattle, WA



Bob Mero

Colorado Dept of Transportation

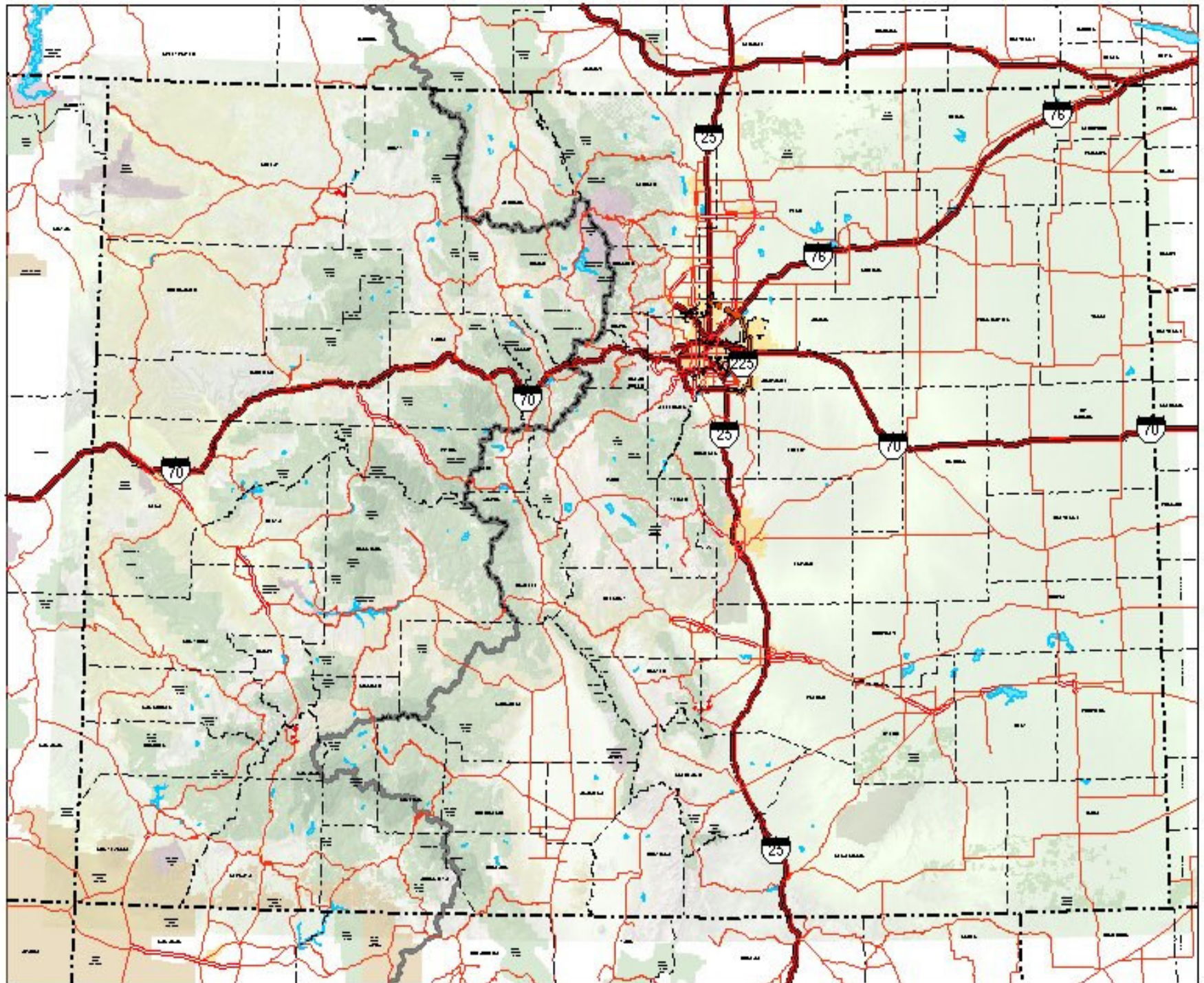
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**Why do we have to be concerned  
with traffic noise in Colorado???**





# GROWTH!!!

- 4.6 Million People ('04)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Fastest Growing State (1990-2000)
- 8 out of Top 18 Fastest Growing Counties in U.S.
- Douglas County (South of Denver): #1 Fastest (191%, 177,000 people total)
- 9156 Miles (23061 Lane-Miles) in State System



# CDOT Environmental Studies

- CDOT is currently working on 40 major environmental documents
  - 11 Environmental Impact Statements
  - 26 Environmental Assessments
  - 3 Environmental Overview Studies
- Corridors
  - I-70, Denver to Glenwood Springs
  - I-70, I-25 to DIA
  - US-36, Denver to Boulder
  - US-160, Durango to Bayfield
  - US-50, Pueblo to Kansas State Line



# NOISE PROGRAM HISTORY

- CDOT has an active noise barrier construction history:
  - Linear Miles: 87.3 (5<sup>th</sup>)
  - Total Area: 5,000,000 sq. ft. (9<sup>th</sup>)
  - Approximate Actual Cost: \$70.5M (9<sup>th</sup>)
  - Type 2 Barrier Construction: 1.39M sq. ft. (8<sup>th</sup>)



# PROGRAM SUCCESSES

- Continued Noise Barrier Construction (T1)
- CDOT Noise Policy Revision
  - Adopted in December 2002
  - Replaced February 1995 Version
  - Unique, Collaborative Statewide Effort
- Funding of Research Projects
  - TNM Evaluation
  - Pavement and Environmental Noise
- Project-Level Citizen Working Groups





# TREX PROJECT

- Colorado's Largest Public Works Project
- Widening of 19 miles of I-25 and I-225 in Southeast Metro Denver
- Addition of 13 miles of LRT
- Cost: \$1.7B
- Will construct 8-10 miles of noise barrier
- Creative Construction Noise Mitigation



# I-25, Denver



# DILLON VALLEY

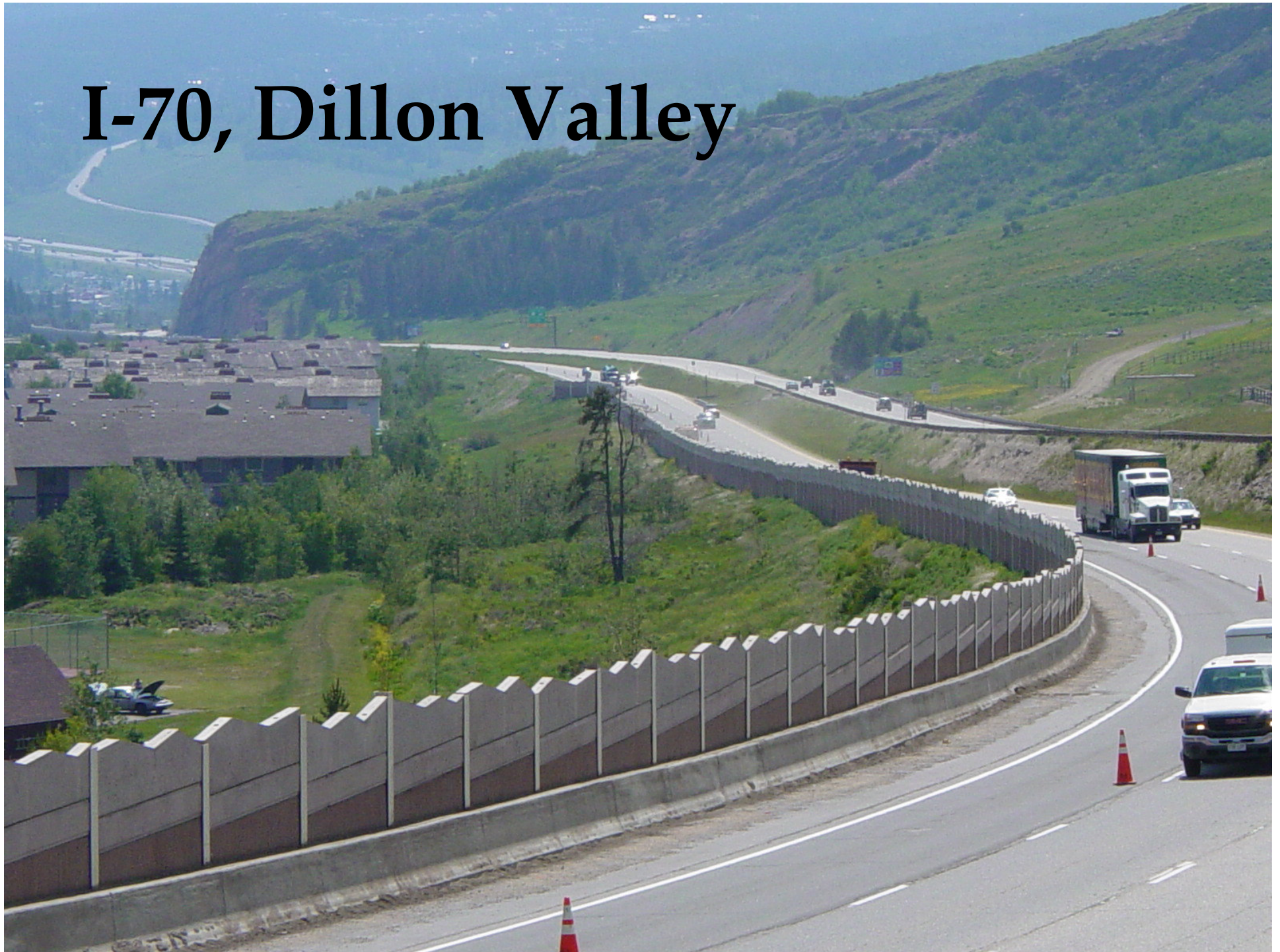
- Constructed 2003
- Combination Pre-cast Concrete/Berm
- Used traction sand for Berm material
- Wall: 4700' Berm: 2800' (8-10' tall)
- Overall Cost (bid): \$1.8M (\$32 sq. ft.)
- Ground Elevation: 8,944' - 9,268'

**THE NATION'S HIGHEST BARRIER!!!!!!**





# I-70, Dillon Valley

















# US-287, Lafayette









# SH-47, Pueblo



11 7:27 AM









11 7:18AM



# Indestructible? (I-70, Golden)



# PROGRAM CHALLENGES

- Limited Budgets
- Type-II Noise Barrier Program Cancellation (August 1999)
- Pavement Noise Rhetoric
- Relationship with Section 106 and 4(f)
- General Increase of Public Awareness in Regards to Noise Issues



# LEGISLATIVE PRESSURE

## Colorado House Bill 1142

- Required Noise Mitigation to Achieve Noise Levels Below 55 dBA (Later Amended to 67)
- Earmark up to 4% of CDOT Budget for Noise Mitigation (~\$32,000,000)
- Established Grant Program for Citizens (up to \$1000 to be Awarded)

**Bill Passed Transportation Committee 10-1**

**Bill Failed Appropriations Committee 6-5**





# Public Relations Efforts

- CDOT Traffic Noise Assessment Brochure
- CDOT Pavement Types Brochure
- CDOT Website ([www.dot.state.co.us](http://www.dot.state.co.us))
- Highway Traffic and Pavement Noise Subcommittee (PE3 Level)
  - PowerPoint Presentation
  - Synthesis of Research Efforts
  - Future Video





Imagine if we could harness some of  
the 465" of snow at Wolf Creek Pass...

